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THE

WORK OF HUMANITY IN WAR.

PLAN AND RESULTS

OF THE

Geneva Congress and International Treaty,

SECURING TO THE SICK AND WOUNDED IN WAR

THE BENEFITS OF NEUTRALITY AND SANITARY CARE.

PREPARED UNDER DIRECTION OF THE

American Branch of the International Association
FOR RELIEF OF MISERY OF BATTLEFIELDS.

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INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

ANOTHER great war is arousing the civilized world to interpose whatever humane and sanitary aids the civilization and science of the present can offer. Suddenly, as by explosion, two great nations that had fully entered into the spirit and purposes of the Geneva Congress and International Treaty for the neutral and humane treatment of sick and wounded soldiers, have thrown their vast armies upon each other in quickly succeeding battles, hurried marches and destructive sieges, which have put this Treaty and its plans and agreements respecting help for the wounded, to a very remarkable and severe test. This trial has proved that Treaty and the International Association for relief of the wounded and sick in war, to be the most glorious triumph over national hatred and jealousies, and the inhumanities of war, the world has ever seen.

The American people very well understand from their recent experience in a long war, the necessity for popular and efficient organizations to give help to the sick and wounded. The United States Sanitary Commission has given the nations a memorable illustration of the usefulness and power of individual efforts organized and inspired for humane and patriotic duty. The institution of that Commission, says a European writer, "marks a new era in the world's history." And now, throughout the two great central countries of Europe, the history of that institution is being repeated, and a scheme of sanitary care and relief is carried into operation with all the advantages of a previous agreement and treaty to which every nation on that continent has given adherence. Both France and Germany will fight out their war, with myriads of soldiers that come directly from their once peaceful homes, bearing with them to battle-fields and in hospitals the memories of loved ones and home-life, just as our volunteer soldiers did; and, the measure of that grateful remembrance and fraternal regard which we in America feel towards the French

and German people for the rich contributions they sent for the relief of the sick and wounded of our army, will now become the measure of their fraternal feelings towards the people of this country for whatever aid we give to their merciful work in hospitals and ambulances.

The actual results of the Geneva Treaty are of the most practical kind. Its stipulations provide that the intelligence, affection, wealth and skill of the people, and the sympathy of benevolent minds in all countries shall be permitted to contribute in all practicable ways to mitigate the woes of war; and the International Treaty is, in effect, a scheme of organized benevolence, devised by the people and officially revised and adopted by the national military authorities. The unspeakable usefulness of such contributions from the beneficence and skill of the people was exemplified through the Sanitary and Christian Commissions in the American war. Experience in the war of Austria, Prussia and Italy in 1866 proved that the constant and largest bestowment of this aid from the people can be maintained without detriment to military discipline and success, and in the present great war we witness the fraternal co-operation of the people of all surrounding nations in this duty of helping the wounded. Switzerland, Austria, Russia, Belgium, Holland, and England, have hastened forward the choicest sanitary supplies, and large numbers of their ablest medical men, with the means of succor to the wounded; and, already, it is evident that this brotherly help from neutral nations is unspeakably useful to the victims of the war, and that these acts of mercy are awakening deep emotions of gratitude throughout all Germany and France. The efficient working of this international scheme of charity in war being thus assured, the American branch of the work now deems it a duty to publish a brief summary of the proceedings and stipulations of the Conferences and the Treaty that have sanctioned the work, together with a statement of the measures now in progress to "raise the science which consoles and heals, to a level with the science that destroys." The people of the United States have given substantial aid to these measures, and this report of progress and proceedings is now due to them at a time when their co-operation in the duty of relief to the French and German wounded is solicited by the International Committee.

New York, *Oct.* 22, 1870.

THE HUMANE TREATY.

International Conference at Geneva in 1863 — The Congress and International Treaty there in 1864 — Progress of the Plan — International Conference of Delegates from Governments and Relief Associations in 1867, '68, and 1869, at Paris, Würzburg and Berlin.

UNTIL the year 1861 no comprehensive and adequate plan had ever been devised for giving to the sick and wounded in war the sanitary care and relief which the governments and people at war owe to the soldier. The shocking waste of human life in the Crimean war aroused the civilized world from its apathy, and, by the aid of Sir Sidney Herbert and Florence Nightingale, the history of that terrible period and of the amazing results which sanitary efforts produced in it, became the means of fixing a determination in numerous philanthropic minds that sanitary measures and the people's care should be interposed to prevent such suffering and needless mortality in all subsequent wars.

To administer the charities of sympathy and private beneficence upon bloody fields and in hospitals for the wounded, was manifestly no easy task. The story of such voluntary efforts to help the wounded on the battle-fields of Palestro, Magenta, Marignano and Solferino, is a sad testimony to the fact that the difficulties and insufficiency of all individual and philanthropic efforts seemed almost as inevitable as the circumstances and iron discipline of war itself. The suddenness and enormous magnitude of modern wars also offered special obstacles to such efforts.

In 1861 the necessity for these efforts, and the ardent patriotism and sympathy of the people, resulted in a work of sanitary care and relief in vast armies of our war for the Republic, which removed all doubt concerning the practicability of giving any necessary amount of aid by an intelligent people, who would cordially unite in the requisite plans of organization, In October, 1863, at the call of the

Society of Public Utility, of Geneva, Switzerland, there assembled in that city, a general conference of delegates and philanthropic persons to consider questions pertaining to the insufficiency of sanitary service in armies and campaigns. A scheme for an associated effort for the attainment of the needed reforms was presented, and, after four days of earnest discussion of the several propositions, by such leading military and sanitary authorities as General Dufour, the chief of the Swiss armies, M. de Preval, of the French Imperial Guard, Dr. Loeffler, Surgeon-in-Chief of the Fourth Corps d'Armée of Prussia, Dr. Rutherford, Inspector-General of British Army Hospitals, and others, the following resolutions were adopted for submission to the respective governments of the civilized world:

Resolutions of the Geneva Conference.

(1.) There shall be in every country, a Committee whose duty it shall be to co-operate, in the time of war, by all the means in its power, with the Sanitary service of the army.

(2.) Sections unlimited in number shall be formed, in order to second the Committee to which the general direction will belong.

(3.) Every Committee shall place itself in communication with the Government of its own country, in order that its offers of assistance, in case of need, may be accepted.

(4.) In time of peace the Committee and Sections shall be concerned in the means to make themselves really useful in time of war, especially in preparing material aid of every kind, and in endeavoring to instruct and train the volunteer nurses.

(5.) In the event of war, the Committees of the belligerent nations shall furnish relief to their respective armies in proportion to their resources; in particular, they shall organize and place the volunteer helpers on an active footing, and in conjunction with the military authority, they shall arrange places for the reception of the wounded. They shall solicit the assistance of the Committees belonging to neutral nations.

(6.) On demand, or with the concurrence of the military authority, the Committee shall send volunteer helpers (nurses) to the field of battle. They shall there place them under the direction of military chiefs.

(7.) The volunteer helpers (or nurses) employed with armies, shall be provided with everything necessary for their maintenance.

(8.) They shall wear, in all countries, a white band around the arm with a red cross upon it, as a distinctive and uniform badge.

(9.) The Committees and Sections of the different countries shall meet in International Conference, in order to communicate to each other the result of their experience, and to decide on measures to be adopted for the advancement of the work.

(10.) The exchange of communications between the Committees of the different nations shall be made provisionally through the medium of the Committee of Geneva.

The Conference also adopted and sent to the respective Governments the following

REQUESTS:

"(A.) That the Government should grant protection to the Relief Committees which may be formed. . . .

"(B.) That in time of war, neutrality should be proclaimed by the belligerent nations for the field and stationary hospitals, and that it may also be accorded, in the most complete manner, to all agents employed in Sanitary work, to volunteer nurses, to the inhabitants of the country who shall assist the wounded, and to the wounded themselves.

"(C.) That an identical distinctive symbol be adopted for the medical corps of all armies, or, at least, for all persons attached to this service in the same army. That an identical flag be also adopted for the field and stationary hospitals of all armies.

PORGRESS OF THE PLAN.

These propositions having been submitted, with due formality, to the different Governments of Europe by the Central Committee of Geneva, and no less than fifteen of them having officially signified their approval of them as the basis of an International Convention and Treaty of neutralization and relief to military patients and the sanitary service in war, an International Congress of plenipotentiary, diplomatic and military agents of the Governments of Europe was convened in accordance with a request from the Supreme Federal Council of Switzerland. That diplomatic Congress assembled on the

8th of August, 1864, and, after several days' sittings, agreed upon Treaty and Convention that was acceptable to the Governments they represented, and which have since been ratified by every sovereign in Europe. Subjoined is the text of

THE TREATY

FOR THE AMELIORATION OF THE CONDITION OF WOUNDED SOLDIERS OF ARMIES IN THE FIELD.

The Sovereigns of the countries following, to wit: Italy, Baden, Belgium, Denmark, Holland, Spain, Portugal, France, Prussia, Saxony, Wurtemburg, and the Federal Council of Switzerland, animated with a common desire of mitigating, as far as in their power, the evils inseparable from war, of suppressing needless severities, and of ameliorating the condition of soldiers wounded on the field of battle, have determined to conclude a treaty for this purpose; and, having named plenipotentiaries to sign such a Convention, these plenipotentiaries, after the due interchange of their powers, found to be in good and proper form, have agreed upon the following articles, to wit:

Article 1.

Ambulances and military hospitals shall be acknowledged to be neuter, and, as such, shall be protected and respected by belligerents so long as any sick or wounded may be therein.

Such neutrality shall cease if the ambulances or hospitals should be held by a military force.

Article 2.

Persons employed in hospitals and ambulances, comprising the staff for superintendence, medical service, administration, transport of wounded, as well as chaplains, shall participate in the benefit of neutrality whilst so employed, and so long as there remain any wounded to bring in or to succor.

Article 3.

The persons designated in the preceding article may, even after occupation by the enemy, continue to fulfil their duties in the hospital or ambulance which they serve, or may withdraw in order to rejoin the corps to which they belong.

Under such circumstances, when those persons shall cease from their functions, they shall be delivered by the occupying army to the outposts of the enemy.

ARTICLE 4.

As the equipment of military hospitals remains subject to the laws of war, persons attached to such hospitals cannot, in withdrawing, carry away any articles but such as are their private property.

Under the same circumstances an ambulance shall, on the contrary, retain its equipment.

ARTICLE 5.

Inhabitants of the country who may bring help to the wounded shall be respected, and shall remain free. The Generals of the belligerent powers shall make it their care to inform the inhabitants of the appeal addressed to their humanity, and of the neutrality which will be the consequence of it.

Any wounded man entertained and taken care of in a house shall be considered as a protection thereto. Any inhabitant who shall have entertained wounded men in his house shall be exempted from the quartering of troops, as well as from a part of the contributions of war which may be imposed.

ARTICLE 6.

Wounded or sick soldiers shall be entertained and taken care of, to whatever nation they may belong.

Commanders-in-chief shall have the power to deliver immediately to the outposts of the enemy soldiers who have been wounded in an engagement, when circumstances permit this to be done, and with the consent of both parties.

Those who are recognized, after their wounds are healed, as incapable of serving, shall be sent back to their country.

The others may also be sent back, on condition of not bearing arms during the continuance of the war.

Evacuations, together with the persons under whose directions they take place, shall be protected by an absolute neutrality.

ARTICLE 7.

A distinctive and uniform flag shall be adopted for hospitals, ambulances, and evacuations. It must, on every occasion, be accompanied by the neutral flag. An arm-badge (brassard) shall also be allowed for individuals neutralized, but the delivery thereof shall be left to military authority.

The flag and the arm-badge shall bear a red cross on a white ground.

ARTICLE 8.

The details of execution of the present Convention shall be regulated by the commanders-in-chief of belligerent armies, according to the instructions of their respective Governments, and in conformity with the general principles laid down in this Convention.

ARTICLE 9.

The High Contracting Powers have agreed to communicate the present Convention to those Governments which have not found it convenient to send plenipotentiaries to the International Conference at Geneva, with an invitation to accede thereto; the protocol is for that purpose left open.

ARTICLE 10.

The present Convention shall be ratified, and the ratifications shall be exchanged at Berne, in four months, or sooner if possible.

In witness whereof, the respective plenipotentiaries have signed the same, and have affixed thereto the seal of their arms.

Done at Geneva, the twenty-second day of August, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-four.

(Signed,) * * * * *

Additions to the Articles of the Treaty,

(*Original of August* 22, 1864,) *adopted October* 20, 1868. [*The articles relating to Naval war omitted.*]

ADDITIONAL ARTICLE 1.

The staff designated in the 2d Article of the Treaty, will continue, after occupation by the enemy, to give, according to need, assistance to the sick and wounded of the ambulance (temporary hospital) to which it is attached.

When that staff shall ask to retire, the commandant of the occupying troops shall fix the period of its departure, which, however, he may delay only for a short time, in the event of military necessities.

ADDITIONAL ARTICLE 2.

Measures shall be taken by the belligerent Powers, to ensure to the neutralized staff which has fallen into the hands of the enemy, the complete enjoyment of its treatment of the patients.

ADDITIONAL ARTICLE 3.

Under the conditions specified by Articles 1 and 4 of the Convention, the term ambulance applies to the field-hospitals and to other temporary establishments which follow troops upon field of battle, for the reception of the sick or wounded.

ADDITIONAL ARTICLE 4.

Conformably to the spirit of the 5th Article of the Convention, and to the reservations mentioned in the Protocol of 1864, it is explained that on regulat-

ing the equitable distribution of expenses relative to the lodging of troops and to the contributions of war, account shall be taken only in proportion to the degree of charitable zeal displayed by the inhabitants.

ADDITIONAL ARTICLE 5.

By extension of Article 6 of the Treaty it is stipulated that, with the exception of officers, the retaining or possession of whom would be important as to the chances of the war, and within the limits fixed by the second paragraph of that article, the wounded that have fallen into the hands of the enemy, even although they shall not be deemed incapacitated for service are to be sent back to their country, after their cure, or sooner, if it be possible, with the understanding however, that they are not again to take up arms during the war.

Thirteen of the governments of Europe having, through their Plenipotentiaries at this Congress, subscribed their adherence to the Treaty, the remaining powers carefully examined into its provisions, and finally, the last royal hand—that of the Sultan of Turkey—has subscribed its approval to the covenant. The military and State authorities of Europe, therefore, may be supposed to be ready to give this scheme of relief every facility for fair trial. The people of the different countries have not only anticipated, but greatly influenced this action of the sovereigns, for they have, during the last five years, been steadily organizing National and local Associations for Relief of the Sick and Wounded in War, and have chosen their counselors from among the ablest hygienists, surgeons, and military men. From Moscow and St. Petersburg to Naples and Madrid, the National Relief Societies (*Sociétés de Secours aux Blessés*) are reported to be efficiently organized; and, at the sudden opening of the present great war, the Relief Association (royal *Hülfs-Verein*) of Prussia, and the French *Société de Secours*, with hundreds of tributary associations in those countries, were found in as perfect readiness to offer aid as the forces themselves were to move forward to battle. Nothing seems to have been wanting in the system and organization of the central society in Berlin and its 280 auxiliaries or sections in the towns and villages of Prussia at the hour when the French proclamation of war was announced. All of these relief associations (*Hülfs-Vereine*) sprang to their meeting-rooms and engaged in preparing the reserve sanitary supplies, and arranged with the military authorities for the designation of whatever material and personal help, should be offered by the people. In France the National *Société de Secours* proved to be even

more completely ready for the war movement than was the imperial medical service itself. The reader will find a distinct account of the present state of this sanitary and relief service in a subsequent chapter.

THE ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES.

Since the Congress at Geneva, and the ratification of the Treaty by most of the Governments, there have been three International Conferences of delegates from Relief Societies and the Army authorities held, in different years, at Würzburg, Paris and Berlin; and another conference is to be held at Vienna in the year 1871. At each Conference, subjects of great practical importance are discussed, and the views of the representatives of the different countries are obtained upon the various propositions for giving full effect to the Geneva Treaty, and for improving the sanitary service in armies.

THE WÜRZBURG CONFERENCE.

The chief propositions submitted had reference mainly to securing adequate military protection for the stores, convoys, etc., from the Sociétés de Secours, destined for the wounded; the unexceptional neutralization of the wounded that require surgical treatment without transportation; and, lastly, the establishment of strict rules concerning the delivery of permissions and arm-badges to the representatives of relief societies and all persons who engage in the care of sick and wounded; also, a request to the Governments that "they shall take care that in time of war every soldier is furnished with a certificate indicating his name, place of birth, and the corps (regiment or company) to which he belongs," and that the inviolability of the neutrality promised in the Treaty should be "guaranteed by uniform declarations published in the military codes of the different nations."

THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AT PARIS IN 1867.

Among the numerous propositions that were unanimously recommended to the Governments by the delegates to this important Conference, the following have since that period received much attention:

(1.) That ambulances, hospitals and all the material for relief of the wounded on land or upon sea shall be neutral and respected by all the belligerents.

(2.) The personal staff of hospitals and ambulances, including per-

sons for religious aid and those engaged in transport and administrative as well as the medical service, shall have the benefit of neutrality.

(3.) That such neutral persons may, if they fall into the hands of the enemy, continue to discharge their functions in the hospital or ambulance in which they are officiating.

(4.) That the members of all National Societies assisting in succoring the wounded of land or of sea forces, should be declared neutral.

(5.) The inhabitants of the country and the attendants upon the wounded in any house, and the house itself in which any wounded soldiers are entertained and taken care of, should have the rights of neutrality and military protection.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF DELEGATES AT BERLIN IN 1869.

At this Conference one hundred and sixty-eight delegates were in attendance, and all, excepting two, of the States of Europe were represented. The following important results were decided in this Conference:

(1.) Relief Societies will abstain from creating *ambulances du combat*, and will avoid in principle whatever may draw their members into the lines of battle.

(2.) As a general rule they will help establish and administer hospitals of reserve.

(3.) But at the seat of war, in a foreign country, the sanitary service of the armies will be aided by Relief Societies, both in *personnel* and *matériel:*

(*a*) On the field after a battle;

(*b*) In the transport of sick and wounded;

(*c*) In hospitals.

(4.) With a view to material assistance, central and local depots of sanitary *matériel* will be established at home and abroad. Especial regard will be had to fortresses in the interior which may be menaced.

(5). Gifts of *matériel* will undergo a strict examination before being sent to the theatre of war.

(6). The *matériel* of the sanitary service will conform, as nearly as possible, to the models adopted by the State.

(7). The Societies will act in all their arrangements in conformity with the regulations of the army, and will follow a plan previously fixed upon for this purpose.

(8). Assistance to sick and wounded soldiers in each country shall be, as far as practicable, under a central direction.

(9). It is desirable that in each country, or union of countries, the relations between the Relief Societies and the military authorities during war, be defined by certain rules, and that these rules be as uniform as possible.

(10). In all that concerns the service at the seat of war, efforts must be made to establish good relations and a common action with the Relief Societies existing in that country.

(11). Preventive measures against any abuse of the international badge of neutrality are considered necessary.

(12). A rigorous police should be established to protect the dead and wounded from pillage or ill-treatment on the field after battle.

(13). Hygienic regulations relating to the interment of the dead should be carefully observed.

(14). Some convenient means should be adopted to enable the dead and wounded to be easily identified.

(15). The articles of the Geneva Convention should be made known as widely as possible, especially among soldiers.

The Conference adopted a recommendation to the nations for the addition of the following article to the Treaty:

"In case of war, non-belligerent powers are invited to place at the disposal of the belligerents those surgeons of their armies whom they may be able to lend without disadvantage to their own service, such surgeons to be placed under the orders of the chief medical officer of the belligerent army to which they may be attached."

The Conference also agreed upon the principles and methods which ought to govern the Voluntary Relief service in Naval War. And, in order to obtain more complete plans for making such aid effective, the Central Prussian Committee offers a prize of 100 *frédérics d'or* for the best essay upon the questions submitted in Conference respecting this subject.

The duty of Relief Associations during peace was considered in the Conference, and the plan of action that was then agreed upon is happily adapted to develop thoroughness of organization and a constant readiness for the exigencies of war. The most essential points that were agreed upon relate to—

(1). The organization of Help Societies and a Central Committee in each country.

(2). The study and preparation of the most efficacious means of giving aid.

(3). The adoption of measures for having in training and readiness, a corps of hospital attendants by the National Relief Committee in each country; consequently, the adoption of means for educating and training skilled nurses, who, in time of peace, shall be useful to the sick poor. At the same time, the choosing and equipment of a sanitary corps of strong and suitable men, who shall be found useful both in war and peace.

(4). The procuring of models and whatever improvements in the *matériel* for relief that can be suggested, and the thorough testing of the same.

(5). The special study of the practical questions in hygiene and the care of the sick and wounded.

(6). The relief societies promptly to give relief and methodical care wherever great calamities happen in time of peace, and to employ themselves usefully in works of humanity corresponding with their duties in time of war, by giving well organized and speedy help.

(7). The duty of the respective National Committees to arrange with the military authorities for a perfect understanding and agreement upon all questions of relief service for war.

Respecting the International Committee of Geneva, as originally provided by the first Conference in that perpetually neutral city,* the delegates at Berlin recommended that the Neutral Committee should continue its labors on behalf of all the National Associations and State Committees of Relief; also, that it should charge itself with the duty of publishing a journal, and interesting itself in the formation of a collection of objects of sanitary *matériel,* improvements and inventions relating to the welfare of sick and wounded soldiers. The Geneva Committee was authorized, in case war occurs, to select a suitable and convenient place for a central neutral agency for the reception and distribution of sanitary supplies, and the maintenance of correspondence, the issuing of supplies for the wounded belligerents, etc.

The Berlin Conference proposed the following important ques-

* See Resolutions of Conference, etc., tenth Resolution, page 7 in this pamphlet.

tions for further examination, and for discussion at the Conference which shall assemble at Vienna in 1871:

(*a.*) How shall delegates of Relief Societies best follow the military headquarters with a small convoy of *matériel* and *attendants.*

(*b.*) How best to maintain correspondence between Relief Societies in belligerent armies.

(*c.*) By what means shall the people be most effectively encouraged to aid the Relief organizations in war.

The declarations of this great Conference concerning the sentiment and decision they entertained in regard to our American relations to this scheme of humane effort among the nations, were expressed in the following cordial terms: "The Conference expresses its great regret at not having had the valuable assistance of any delegate from the United States of North America.* Convinced that the great and noble nation, one of the first in the world that has rendered eminent services to this great work of humanity, will welcome with sympathy the result of its labors, the Conference desires that the protocols of its sittings shall be addressed by its President to the Government of the United States, and the Relief Committee in that country."

This summary of the proceedings in Council by which the movement of humane and sanitary care for the soldier in war, that had its first great example in our War for the Union, had been made international over all Europe, will give the reader some just conception of the efforts by which this result has been achieved. Of course it is impossible in the limits of this small pamphlet to present all the facts concerning this rapidly advancing work of humanity. The principles and articles of agreement are so sound and practical that no difficulty has been experienced by Prussian army authorities in the complete adoption and practice of them in the last two wars in which

* In the International Conference at Paris in 1867, the American Association for Relief was represented by Delegates, and in the Congress at Geneva, for agreeing upon the basis of the International Treaty, the U. S. Sanitary Commission was represented by a delegate. But at the Würzburg and Berlin Conferences there were no delegates from either of these institutions, a circumstance much regretted, but unavoidable.

they have been applied. Russia and the German States have put into practice the various recommendations of the International Conference of delegates as well as the stipulations of the Geneva Treaty. France also adopted the articles of the Treaty with great faithfulness, but its wretchedly obstructive and bad system of the Intendance, by which not only the voluntary, but the regular military medical and sanitary service is crushed beneath an arbitrary dictatorship, ignorant alike of medical and hygienic principles and duties, is an imperial incubus upon the French Sanitary service. Austria, Italy, Denmark, and Spain, have each had opportunity to put the Treaty into practice in their own countries respectively, and have proved the practicability of its stipulations. All the other nations of Europe are ready to sustain the Treaty in all particulars whenever war occurs. In each country this Treaty, and the voluntary associations of the people that procured its adoption by the Government, will not fail to present the proofs that the brotherhood of man is held by far stronger bonds than any which emperors and kings can create.

The fact is now confessed on all hands, by the ablest military authorities as well as by people in civil life, that there is no insurmountable difficulty in the application of voluntary aid for the relief of the sick and wounded after battles. The idea and the individual plans of such relief are as old as the records of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, and the military consent and request for such assistance from the people and for the observance of neutrality for the wounded dates back to the wars of Frederick the Great. But the real impracticability of all such efforts previous to the recent war in the United States, consisted chiefly in the absence of organization among the people, and, consequently, of want of pre-arrangement and good understanding with the governmental and military authorities. The United States Sanitary Commission demonstrated that the benevolent help of the people can be as completely organized as any military forces and movements; and the International Conference and Treaty of Geneva has proved that whatever voluntary means of relief for the sick and wounded are so organized, can be made acceptable and be legitimately authorized in all the armies and military hospitals of Europe. "The fitting time," said Surgeon Longmore of the British army, "has only recently arrived, for what was exceptional to become the rule, for such topics as those embraced in the Geneva Convention to excite general interest, and to be held to

be of sufficient importance to European Governments to enter into a treaty respecting them." *

The rules of warfare among civilized nations have always forbidden the infliction of suffering not necessary to the weakening of the enemy, and, in the ultimate results of any war, the belligerent is most respected and morally strengthened that most strictly respects such rights of humanity as are compatible with the art and necessary acts of warfare. The Duke de Fezensac, a high authority upon such a military question, says emphatically that such a regard for humanity is in war "compatible with its terrible mission, and with its own rules and special laws." However hideous and unchristian the combats of armies actually are, the occurrence of war is yet so inevitable between nations, that philanthropic and thoughtful citizens in every country readily assent to the duty of giving hearty support to the great scheme of voluntary relief and International aid for the sick and wounded. It was necessary, of course, that such a scheme should be devised upon an adequate basis of the popular intelligence and sympathies, and of the necessities of armies and the usages of war, and then also, that such an organized plan of benevolence should be made acceptable to national Governments. This accomplished, as it has been in the work of the Sanitary Commissions, and by the International Conferences, and the Geneva, this beneficent service of humanity cannot cease until the nations make war no more.

The faithful records of all wars, until the present time, have been, as Miss Nightingale truly says, frightful "records of preventable suffering, disease and death;" and, as in former times, these evils were regarded as incapable of mitigation, and were allowed to breed barbarism and national hatred, it has now been made a duty of civilization to bring to bear all practicable kinds of relief and charity for the unfortunate victims of war. This duty is pressed upon the attention of all enlightened nations by the events now passing in the war between France and Prussia. Neither the political questions and results of this war, nor the distance of its bloody fields from us should hinder our responses to the calls for relief to the wounded. The brotherhood of man, the duties of civilization and religion, and the daily messages of the telegraph and the International Committee for Succor, appeal to us in America as urgently as to neighboring nations in Europe.

* Lecture delivered at the Royal Service Institution, England, 1866, by Deputy Inspector-General T. LONGMORE.

Practical Operations Under The Treaty.

Experience in the war in Schleswig-Holstein, and in that of Austria, Italy and Prussia—The present war between France and Germany—Early work of the International Committee at Geneva and Basle—First report of the International Agency at Basle, August, 1870—Operation of Prussia and German Hülfs-Vereine, or Relief Societies—The French Sociétés de Secours—Aid by the Relief Societies of other countries—Working of the Plan of International Help; the Appeal for aid from the American People.

In the war of Schleswig-Holstein, in 1864, in that of Austria, Italy and Germany in 1866, and that of the Spanish Revolution in 1868, the principles and the practice of the scheme of voluntary relief, as sanctioned by the Geneva Treaty and the International Conferences, have been thoroughly tested, even before the details of the plan were properly settled and understood. But from the outbreak of the present war between France and Prussia, though the summons and the collision burst upon a state of profound peace with the suddenness of a terrific explosion, and with forces exceeding in numbers, and the quickness of movements, any previous example in history, this sacred Treaty and the scheme of voluntary help have operated with the regularity and efficiency of a completely organized and outfitted department of the military service. We will here present an abstract of the authenticated reports which have been received by the American Branch, concerning this grand work in Europe. It is proper first to show what the Central or International Committee, at Geneva, is doing, and secondly how the scheme of relief is conducted by the two belligerent countries, and, lastly, what is being accomplished by the people in certain neighboring countries.

Extracts from the first Report of the International Agency of Relief for the Wounded, Basle, Switzerland. Month ending Aug. 31*st*, 1870.*

The first monthly report of the Basle Agency presents a daily record of the

* The Report from which these extracts are taken, has been made by the International Committee of Geneva, as provided by the Berlin Conference. The Depot and Agency were established

receipts and distribution of invoices of sanitary supplies. It appears that the relief societies of Italy and Switzerland have sent their gifts through this Agency. Most of the other neutral countries have sent by direct routes to the hospitals of Germany and France, not delaying for orders from the Geneva Committee, but reporting to that advisory body the acts of their agents and receiving information, etc., thus maintaining, in some degree, the unity of the relief work. The following quotations from the report of the "intermediary work" of the Central Committee and Agency present important facts concerning the operation of the relief system.

PREPARATORY LABORS.

After the International Committee of Geneva had made known to all the aid societies the creation and organization of an Agency at Basle, our first duty was to place ourselves in relation with the Committees of Germany and France, so as to offer them our aid. At the same time, we were obliged to address ourselves to the Committees of neutral countries, to solicit subsidies from them.

Moreover, we endeavored to take and give information on all sides, as numerous and exact as possible, so as to be enabled to answer all sorts of questions. In this respect the agency has from the first displayed great activity.

Next we took steps to obtain facilities of transport, and our requests were everywhere very favorably received. Germany granted us freedom of duties, post, and transport, as well as the free passage of persons recommended by us. France remitted to us 75 per cent of expenses for the transport of staff and *matériel*. As to Switzerland, she first and very obligingly conceded to us the same facilities as Germany. Other countries, as Holland and Belgium, have since followed this example.

RESULTS OF THE APPEAL.

The best proof that we can give of the utility of our Agency, is the remarkable and constantly increasing success it has obtained. The movement of our affairs is such, that it will, this week * have obtained the figure of 1,000 packages. More than 100 persons, chiefly medical men, have been sent on by us, and with

at Basle as a central point of convenient communication, distribution, and correspondence. The Committee is constituted by the following members:

General Dufour,	of Switzerland,	Honorary President,
Mons. Gustave Moynier,	"	President,
Dr. Louis Appia,	"	Secretary,
Col. Edmond Favre,	"	(of the Federal Army,)
Hon. Micheli De la Rive,	"	(a Deputy of the Swiss Council.)

The business of the Agency at Basle is conducted by Messeiurs Prof. Socin, Krayre-Forster, Sarasin-Bischoff, and Vischer-Sarasin.

* The last week in August.

the money which has been remitted to us, we have already been enabled to assist many unfortunate sufferers.

Abroad, Italy, by its numerous invoices has furnished us the largest quantity of *matériel* money, and help. Bohemia, Spain, Russia and Holland, have also employed our intermediation ; however, the *geographical position* of those countries has often induced them to employ a more *direct route* for their expeditions, as has constantly happened for England and Belgium.

In consequence of the numerous and incessant relations which Switzerland has constantly maintained with the two belligerent nations, it might have been expected from the beginning, that this International Agency established at Basle, on the frontier of the three countries, should have received, particularly from that where it was located, the largest exhibit of gifts. In fact, scarcely was the war declared, but a serious and ardent desire of co-operating in the assistance of the wounded showed itself under the most varied forms. Propositions of personal service, invoices of dressings, offerings of every kind flowed into our hands. Many Societies offered us regular deliveries of ice, but certain invoices of this kind having melted, it was expressly recommended not to send any unless we received a telegraphic demand for the same.

DIVISION OF THE SANITARY SUPPLIES.

Following the battles which have hitherto occurred, the German wounded always remained in the hands of their near countrymen, but they have had, moreover, in their charge, almost all the wounded French soldiers, those slightly injured, only, having been enabled to retreat with their own corps. Thus a great number of wounded French were found in the German Hospitals, as well in Germany as in the French departments occupied by the enemy. Now, in accordance with the 6th Article of the Geneva Convention and Treaty, these wounded were to be taken care of as if they had been wounded Germans. The Society of Relief for the wounded having been founded, as its title imports, in the interest of the wounded, and not to assist belligerent governments, we did not think it incumbent on us, after what had been said, to make an exactly equal division of our gifts. Such a division, which at first sight seems the most simple and impartial, would be little equitable in reality and not easily justifiable. The agency resolved that as long as the greater part of the French wounded would be cared for by the Germans, to make largest transmissions into Germany rather than into France, for the gifts benefit the wounded of both armies, which is precisely the object which we proposed to ourselves. When there occurs any necessity for a change, the agency will take the thing into consideration and divide its gifts differently. We were obliged to consider also, that it is no longer possible for us to make our envoys reach the French Committees, whilst great German reserve depots, always accessible for us, have es-

tablished near to the seats of combat, asylums which they supply with all necessaries, at least as much as is permitted by the incumberment of the means of communication. But, thanks to the regularity and abundance of the resources which are placed at our command, we shall promptly restore the momentarily entangled equilibruim if transportation becomes easier. Let us further observe, that the wounded French who escaped capture, took refuge, in large numbers, in fortresses actually surrounded by the enemy. Thus many of the wounded of Wiessemburg and Woerth are at Strasbourg or at Betche; and those of the battles fought around Metz, were received into that city. It is clear that aid from without cannot be made to reach them. We hope that our donators will approve of our action, and acknowledge that according to their wishes, an equal partition of aid among the wounded of both nations has been effected as completely as circumstances would permit.

GERMANY.

At the special request of the Central Committee, we directed a large invoice of material to Berlin. Our principal fields of activity are Carlsruhe, and very particularly Mannheim, where is the central depot of aid, which being supplied on all sides, can send daily to the army all that it stands in need of. The only channel by which the fields of battle can be reached is that of the Grand Duchy of Baden: *even from France herself, we have been asked, by that means, to furnish aid to the wounded French*, in the environs and the town of Haguenau. The Mulhausen Committee has thus been enabled already to act by our intermediation. Requisitions have come to us from Munich, Stuttgart, Spire, Niederbronn, Mannheim, and Fribourg, to which we have responded according to the best of our ability.

FRANCE.

Our first objective point was Strasbourg, and we had the satisfaction to introduce into it some pecuniary aid, dressings, medicines and assistants on the very evening of the investment of the city. Afterwards our messengers could only go as far as Grafenstaden, a cannon shot from the unhappy city. At the expressed desire of the Central Committee of Paris, we thenceforth addressed our stores to that place always under care of a delegate; but latterly this Committee has desired of us to keep in reserve, at Basle, the aid that was destined for it. Those of our delegates who have made the journey from Haguenau through France, returned by the Grand Duchy of Baden, and went forth again, furnished with a complete assortment of articles, to devote themselves almost wholly to the aid of the wounded French. Delegates of Bischwiller, where the wants seemed very great, have just arrived through the Baden territory, and their return, with abundant provisions, will be a blessing for the poor groaning sufferers who so anxiously await them.

Offers of personal service we have received daily since the existence of the agency ; numerous offers from physicians and attendants ; offers of nurses, unfortunately, we were obliged to reject almost from the beginning ; however, we have sent, in all the earlier periods, some male and female attendants to the Strasbourg Committee, who should have been directed to the field of battle with the column of aid leaving Strasbourg, a part of which is still actively employed in the ambulances of Haguenau. On the other hand, the physicians, and particularly the surgeons, have had, alas ! only too much occupation. Our colleague, Prof. Socin, with whom were joined several other professors and medical men, took the direction of the *ambulance de la gare* (look out) at Carlsruhe, which now contains about 400 wounded. Besides, the military physicians who have responded in great numbers to the appeal of Gen. Herzog, Commander-in-Chief of the Swiss army, have been sent by Dr. Lehmann, their Physician-in-chief either at Paris or in Germany.

It is well in this connection to observe, that the International agency has no right or power whatever to send physicians into Germany or France unless authorized to do so. It is even necessary for those we send to Germany, to attest that each one possesses the following papers :

(1.) A diploma of the local authority relating to his right to practice medicine.
(2.) An authorization to go to the belligerent army given by the same authority.
(3.) A passport delivered by a North-German legation, at sight of these two papers, and indicating at the same time the place of destination.

Similar papers are required in France. Dr. Lehmann, the physician-in-chief, has preserved the organization of the Swiss Military Medical Department, in spite of the almost total disbandment of the federal troops ; the military physicians are therefore requested to address their offers to him at Berne.

As a want of attendants might be felt hereafter, the Central Committee of the Swiss Society for Relief, at Berne, has sent formulas to all the local committees in the cantons, on which the attendants who offer their services must be registered, so that they may be obtained in case they should be needed.

We have also received from Italy, Holland and Bohemia similar offers of aid, and have profited by them according to need. Prof. de Huebbenet, of Kiew, delegated by his Government and by the Russian Aid Society, and accompanied by fifteen physicians of his country, went to Mannheim to penetrate thence to the theatre of war, with the intention of there dividing their medical succors between the belligerents, in what should seem the most useful way.

TRANSMISSION OF LETTERS AND INFORMATION.

Immediately after the commencement of hostilities, the Committee of Geneva conceived the thought of proposing our agency to the belligerent countries as the intermedium of correspondence between the wounded and their families, as well as for communications which the Committees of Aid of the belligerent powers may have to make to each other reciprocally. The proposition has been accepted on both sides with great avidity, and we have many proofs that this branch of our activity has had precious results. Many thousands of letters have already been forwarded by our intermediation ; and many tears have certainly been dried in that way. From a mother even we derive the beautiful title of the " Society which takes pity on Mothers."

By a notice pasted on all letters which pass through its hands, the agency is careful to give notice that it takes upon itself to forward answers to their destination. We daily transmit sums of money to the wounded and prisoners, and have taken steps to answer, in this respect, the increasing demand upon us. Every day we are asked for information as to soldiers who have disappeared, and we refer some to the Central Bureau of Information at Berlin and Carlsruhe. We have been promised complete lists of French wounded, who are to be found in the different German hospitals, and have just received a first series of these lists. This will considerably simplify researches. We are obliged for the moment to postpone obtaining the same favor as to prisoners, because of the extent of the labor.

The question which had been so often repeated to us on the subject of the possibility of strangers visiting Germany to take care of wounded relatives, has received from competent authorities a categorical negative answer.*

GIFTS OF SUPPLIES IN KIND.

It is with a profound sentiment of gratitude that we announce the list of gifts received for the wounded soldiers ; the invoices have taken proportions which had not been foreseen by the Agency, and which soon compelled us to establish ourselves in a larger place. We take advantage of the occasion which this first report affords, to address to the donors recommendations on certain points and the expression of certain wishes. It is impossible, seeing the great number of objects which comes to us, to open all the cases and verify their contents, consequently it is desirable that each case or package ad-

* NOTE.—At the moment of going to press, we learn from a certain source, that contrarily to this statement the Prussian Minister at Berne, relying on the 5th article of the Geneva Treaty declares that without hindrance, safe conduct to persons who wish to go to Germany to tend their relatives, or prisoner friends, and bring them back to France, will be given.

[Information has reached us from Germany that this humane and almost unprecedented liberality of the military authorities has been exercised in that country with happy results. But such a privilege manifestly should be both well guarded and sacredly honored. EDITOR.]

dressed to us, should be accompanied by as exact an inventory as possible, and it is best to paste this list on the lid of the cases.

It is also very desirable that each Committee should number successively the packages which it sends, which greatly facilitates the control of objects received, etc.

[Here follow various specific directions for packing and invoicing the supplies that are destined for the field and hospitals. EDITOR.]

We will add a request; it is that as much as possible, all packets whose weight exceeds 10 pounds, should be sent to us by railroad, and not by post, which in Switzerland admits free only packages below that weight.

[Here the Committee enumerates the various kinds of articles most wanted. EDITOR.]

When we receive packages, etc., with a special destination, "for the German," or "for the French," we have hastened to act according to the views of the donors, but it is impossible to follow these directions for small packets.

Many gifts will be again confided to us, and we will do our best to distribute them according to the spirit of the Convention of Geneva, impartially among the wounded of both nations.

The invoices have been assorted in the most varied manner. There came to us, moreover, a certain number of packages for which a special destination was indicated, either for Committees of succor, or for local ambulances, or individuals. We have in all cases sent these invoices to their address, but, nevertheless, we must remark that invoices to the addresses of individuals do not go free. Therefore we earnestly beg that invoices shall not be sent to us for individuals, but that those who send them will be kind enough to send by some other means of transmission.

SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS AND DISTRIBUTIONS AT THE BASLE AGENCY IN AUGUST.

The 1000 boxes and bales of supplies comprised every variety of sanitary stores and appliances that had been called for in the Committee's circulars: Compresses and roller bandages, lint and old linen, flannel bands, shirts and pillows, basins and sponges, blouses and quilts, delicate viands and liquors, uncut goods for hospitals, and money for necessary purchases, etc. The total amount of cash contributions during the month was 26,450.85 francs.

The sanitary stores, during August, were distributed nearly equally to the French and German hospitals respectively; for example:

To Hospitals and besieged cities in France,
the Committee sent . . . . . 219 packages.

To Battlefields in France, the Committee sent 214 packages.
To German Hospitals, " " 183 "

The principal depot for sanitary supplies for battlefields, during the month of August, was at Mannheim. The cash in hand by the Committee was expended for the relief of the wounded near the battlefields, and for those at Strasbourg, 1000 francs; for Strasbourg refugees at Haguenau, 1000; for chloroform, 500; for morphine, quinine and carbolic acid, 518; to Relief Committee at Bischwiller, 500 francs, etc., etc.

This work of the Committee and Agency in Switzerland has been simply supplementary and intermediary, while the advice which this Committee has been able to give to the relief associations of Holland, Belgium, England and Russia, has helped on the means of relief which have been hastened from those countries to the vicinity of the battlefields. The sanitary stores from the Basle Agency have supplied the deficiencies that no other source could at the time fully supply. Thus it is likely to continue to do until the war ceases. "The principles that have governed us in the division and distribution of the supplies confided to us," say the Committee, "have been *to act with strictest impartiality, and always to be ready to aid wherever it has become known to us that the necessity for relief is the greatest.*"

With minutely particular and daily renewed information from relief agents and surgeons on battle-fields and in hospitals, and with access to the besieged cities, the International Committee in neutral Switzerland fully appreciates the wants in both of the belligerent countries, and most faithfully does that body of honored men perform the duty entrusted to them by the National Associations for Relief. The opening paragraphs of their report for August tell how the great events of the hour are impressing their minds in regard to the relief work. They say:

"We sometimes have difficulty in believing the reality of the facts which are spread out before us. With wounded hearts we daily learn of the cruel and irreparable loss of great and precious lives. We groan at the cruel horrors that occur in our civilized Europe in a circle that only recently boasted of the progress it was making. Nevertheless, by the side of this tableau of terrors, which the war is unfolding to our view in such a manner as to make us doubt humanity itself, we now behold a horizon most consoling, the spectacle of which must efface, or greatly ameliorate, our sympathetic anxiety.

Throughout the world we now see called into life a sacred charity that pours balm upon the wounds, and which, with a noble abnegation, comes to offer its voluntary means of relief where ordinary supplies have proved insufficient."

RELIEF SOCIETIES OF THE BELLIGERENT NATIONS.

Both in France and Prussia the central National Society of Relief was found ready for immediate service when the war was proclaimed. The International Conference at Paris in 1867 left its good influence upon the newly-begun work in that capital and throughout France; and the Conference at Berlin in 1869 was accompanied by a very wide-spread public interest in the design and organization of the *Hülfs-Vereine*, or Relief Societies. Hence there ensued such endeavors to perfect the central and auxiliary societies in Prussia and the German States, that, when war was declared, the central society at Berlin, and the Relief Societies in each State, acted without a day's delay and without confusion.

THE GERMAN RELIEF WORK.

The Relief Associations (*Hülfs-Vereine*) of Prussia and the German States, taking their instructions and inspiration directly from the decisions of the International Conference that was assembled at Berlin in the previous year, have been able to give great unity and effect to the voluntary work for relief. The central Committee of direction in Berlin found their plans and wishes heartily seconded by the State and auxiliary Societies. The promptitude and fraternity of this activity in Germany are shown in the calls to co-operation. The official summons of the Saxon Committee we reprint here:

Union and Concentration of Relief-Work in Saxony.

"NOTICE.—The Saxon International Relief Societies—the International-Verein* for the Relief of Soldiers wounded in the field, and the Albert-Verein—have, in view and for the time of the expected war, formed a union under the name of 'International Relief Society for the Kingdom of Saxony,' and her royal majesty, the Crown

* "Society."

Princess of Saxony, has been kind enough to accept the Presidency thereof.

"*For the Directory of the Albert-Verein,*
DR. STAUNDORFF, *Secretary.*

"*For the Directory of the International Society for the Relief of Soldiers wounded in the war,*
VON KRIEGERN, *Secretary.*

"DRESDEN, *July* 16, 1870."

Subjoined is a copy of the summons of the Crown Princess KAROLA, as the *Directress* of the Saxon Central Society for Relief, which was issued to the united auxiliary societies the day next following the French declaration of war, and the formation of the "Union" here mentioned.

"Appeal to the United Saxon International Relief Societies.

"Again war is broken out, again bloody battles will be fought, whose victims will soon fill the hospitals. It is the duty of the International Relief Societies again to do their humane work. But the means on hand are insufficient. We are, however, certain of the aid of the Saxon people, which in the sad periods of the year 1866 so gloriously proved its readiness to help.

"To you, fellow-citizens, to you, women and maidens of Saxony, we again repeat the urgent appeal. Help us in this work, give us your aid with money, with bandages and supplies.

"KAROLA, *Directress of the 'Albert-Verein.'*
"(Signed,) *Crown Princess of Saxony.*"
"DRESDEN, *July 17th*, 1870."

"*Reports of Receipt and Expenditures, together with an Appeal of the Central Committee of the German Societies for the Relief of Sick and Wounded Soldiers.*

"While we express our most heartfelt thanks to all the country and branch societies, to this and other corporations, and to all Germans in this and foreign countries for the assistance they have given us in aid of our work, we must yet tell them that the wants continue to be large, and that we expect from them further liberal help.

"In addition to the expenditures of all kinds for the sick and wounded of the German armies in action; in addition to the expendi-

tures for supplying the depots which are being pushed on further and further; the assistance to other Relief Societies and the numerous Hospitals; the provisioning, etc., of the *personnel;* the assistance to the transports for the wounded and the evacuation of Hospitals in the occupied parts of the country, *we must continue to do our best,* in view of the suddenly appearing raw and damp weather, to keep away diseases from the armies.

"All this, thank Providence, has been done thus far in a most thorough manner, and we rejoice in the expectation to be able to note down in our report at the end of the war, the truly united work of all German Societies, and of the whole German people.

"The total receipts at our central treasury amount, so far, to . . . 1,342,793 thalers.

Deduct,

(*a*) The sum of 166,888 thalers, which was designed by the donors for the invalids of the present war, and the widows and orphans of the killed.

(*b*) 20,153 thalers, which, in accordance with the wish of the donors, were paid to several Societies.

Total . . . . . 187,402 thalers.

Total for our use . . 1,155,391 thalers.*

"There have been paid out, up to this date 877,037 thalers.

"The sum of 278,353 thalers, which, in accordance with this report, are on hand yet, are already exhausted by the purchase of material, which is not paid as yet, by orders which we have given, and by other responsibilities which we have taken upon ourselves in carrying out the purpose of our work to the end. These responsibilities are connected principally with the care of the sick and wounded, the keeping of the nurses, and the returning home of our *personnel,* etc.

"May the assistance of the Societies and the readiness of other donors to make sacrifices, soon give us the necessary aid.

* Equal to 820,327.51 American dollars, gold.

"Contributions may be addressed to our central treasury (No. 12 Unter den Linden.)

"*The Central Committee for the Relief of Sick and Wounded Soldiers.*

"(Signed,) R. VON SYDOW, *Secretary.*"

"BERLIN, *Sept.* 26, 1870."

This report presents barely the treasury account of receipts and expenditures. The receipt and distribution of sanitary supplies in kind, have been managed upon a plan similar to that devised by the Sanitary Commission in our late war, and are reported to have thus far been in about the same proportion to the gifts in money, as the American contributions exhibited through our war; that is, the value of materials given is about three times greater than the total gifts of money. This proportion seems also to have been experienced in France and Switzerland, so far as we can judge from the reports that have reached us.

The thoroughness of organization and promptitude of action in the German Relief work, are well shown by the results produced and the methods adopted.

THE FRENCH SOCIÉTÉS DE SECOURS.

From the beginning of the war the National *Société de Secours* at Paris prepared itself to send forward a large number of completely furnished Ambulance Corps. Through numerous auxiliaries in all portions of France, and by means of a subscription list in Paris, nearly 3,000,000 francs were received into the central Treasury for Relief during the first month of active operations, and, previous to the capitulation at Sedan, the National Comité de Secours had fitted out no less than eight *corps d'ambulance* having a list of nearly 1000 attendants and surgeons.* Besides these there was a corps organized by Amer-

* *Organization of the Ambulance Hospital Service of the National Society for Relief in France.*—The insufficiency and defects of the regular army medical and sanitary system were so well understood by the officers of the National Society, that from the first they determined to offer to the government a large number of completely equipped ambulance and field-hospital corps, with ambulance wagons, tents, surgeons, nurses and hospital furniture. Previous to the capitulation at Sedan, several of these ambulance-hospitals had come up with the army, and three of them had been found at work upon fields won by the Prussians.

Each of the first nine ambulance corps that were fitted out under the auspices of the Society in

icans, under the auspices of Dr. Evans, of Paris, and another was organized by American and English surgeons, and rapidly pushed forward towards Metz. At Sedan this ambulance corps came up with the discomfited French army the day previous to capitulation. The French authorities assigned that corps a site outside the city, and operations were immediately begun on the 31st of August, the surgeons and dressers being under fire most of the day, and one attendant being killed while on duty. This ambulance or field-hospital, with its 500 patients, was left by the victorious Prussians, and at the date of last intelligence from it—a month after the French had assigned its location—it was still in the same place, and its beds full of wounded soldiers that had been gathered up from the battle-field the first of September." *

Now, when the regular army ambulance and sanitary system of France has been utterly disorganized and crippled by the disasters of the war, the National *Société de Secours* is comparatively unembarrassed. In the besieged cities, its work goes on through the auxiliary committees and their ambulance and hospital organizations in these places; while the work of organization and outfitting by the National *Comité de Secours,* now at Tours, is pushed on with efficiency under the directorship of Count de Flavigny, Dr. Le Fort, the Medical Chief of voluntary ambulance service, having been detained at Metz. Concerning this work a correspondent of the *N. Y. Courrier des Etats-Unis* writes from Tours, under date of September 17th:

Paris comprised a *personnel* of nearly 100 persons, viz: 1 Surgeon-in-Chief; 14 Surgeons and Assistant Surgeons; 12 Sub-assistants; 52 Attendants; 1 Dispensing Agent or Steward; 1 or 2 Chaplains; 3 clerks, together with teamsters and servants; 17 hospital tents; ambulance and freight wagons; 40 horses; 300 beds and 100 litters.

The entire train of wagons, goods and attendants, was capable of being put under way in ten minutes, and, in case of battle, the official staff, aided by a reserve corps of surgeons and assistants, is able, temporarily, to take care of 1500 wounded soldiers. The cost of the outfit of wagons, horses and the *materiel* for such an ambulance corps amounts to 150,000 francs.

* A letter from Dr. McCormick, one of the English members of the Ambulance Corps here mentioned, gives the following facts to his friends at home: ..... "About 9 or 10 o'clock in the morning they began firing straight into Sedan from the hights opposite..... For six hours this *feu d'enfer* never abated. Our house was often struck by the shells. One of our *infirmiers* was literally torn into shreds, and another grievously wounded just at the door. Early in the morning the wounded began to arrive, not only those of the 1st, but those of the day before, and all that day till late in the night I was busy performing capital operations. I must confess the practice of surgery under fire is anything but agreeable, but I had to do it..... We receive daily visits from surgeons of the French and Belgian ambulances, and from the German surgeons also. They are surprised and pleased to find our organization so complete."

"That which most interests the city is the work of Mons. de Flavigny and his assistants. The work of the Society for the Relief of Wounded, is everywhere welcomed with respect and sympathy. All persons are placing all the resources they can dispose of at its disposal. Mons. de Flavigny is about to organize ambulances in the departments of Indre-et-Loire, Sarthe and Maine-et-Loire. Tours will be the central depot: the college has given up its large buildings, and the white badges with the red cross swarm in the streets."

Whatever adversities may continue to befall the people of France, and whatever struggles they yet may make for the establishment of their National Government, they have so heartily adopted the spirit, as well as the methods of the Geneva Treaty and International Conferences, that this work of humanity must continue to be more and more successful in its operations until the war ceases. We give in this place the following extract from the letter of thanks which the French National *Comité de Secours* has sent to the Austrian *Hülfs-Verein* (Relief Society) in Vienna:

"Humanity asks that the principle holy to all cultivated nations of our day, *that the enemy when wounded is an enemy no more, but a brother, to whom we must extend our helping hand without regard to nationality*, should be carried out in its largest sense by the Relief Societies of all nations, and that the misery of the war can be relieved only when every one does what he would wish to be done to himself in a like situation."

The Central Committee of the German Relief Societies, has given to the Austrian Association a like expression of the German sentiment on this subject.

Practical Working of the Plan of International Help.

In this most sudden and terrible of all the wars which Europe has suffered, the plan and Treaty which the nations agreed upon at Geneva have been so well tested, that no reasonable doubts or objections are now urged against this scheme of philanthropy by any of the observers of the work. The inherent difficulties which attend upon the first efforts at administering a new and vast enterprise in the midst of a great war, are seen and confessed by the co-workers in

Europe. But the work is a success; and it has already demonstrated several very important truths, which all the civilized world will understand as they never understood and acted upon before.

Guided by the principles which developed the plans of the International Conferences and Treaty for Relief of the Miseries of War, the people of all countries which are accessible to the belligerents, can readily concentrate their sympathies and every kind of means of relief for the sick and wounded, and secure the administration of their gifts with strict impartiality to the sufferers of both belligerent armies; and, experience proves that national animosities do not practically interfere with this international scheme of philanthropy.*

The assistance which has already been given by Belgium, Holland and England to the wounded of both belligerent armies has been as fraternal and effective as it could have been had all this voluntary work of charity been concentrated upon either one of the armies; and the total amount of it is doubtless tenfold greater for being impartial in its objects. The aid rendered by Belgium and Holland is said to be the most perfect in all respects that has ever been witnessed in the ambulance and field-hospital service in any war, so complete is the system, the surgical and nursing attendance, and the supply of hospital *materiel*. But it remained for the people of England to present in this war the most remarkable example of liberality ever witnessed by one country towards the people of other countries. The National Society of England for the Relief of the Sick and Wounded in War

* The latter fact is strikingly illustrated by the spontaneous acts of the Austrian Relief Society. Some of its work has been previously mentioned in these pages. Its official summons to co-operation was in the following words:

"VIENNA, *July* 21, 1870.

"*Appeal of the Central Committee of the Austrian Relief Society.*

"The war which has just broken out over Europe, calls on the Austrian Relief Society to perform the international work as laid down in its regulations, and according to which it is the duty of the Society, in the event of a war between foreign powers, to aid as much as the means of the Society and special contributions make it possible to do.

"The Relief Society acts, therefore, in accordance with the principles of strictest neutrality, by equally dividing its endeavors between the two belligerents; *every wounded soldier has a right to our help and relief.*

"The Austrian Relief Committee has, therefore, opened communications with the central Societies in Germany and France.

"This international society will, however, in case donors have preferences for one or the other part of the belligerents, use the funds in accordance with the wish of the donors.

"The Austrian Relief Society thinks itself justified in expecting a strong co-operation of the population, for the ready assistance which the Austrian wounded received from the French and German sides still lives in our grateful memory." * * * *

was organized on the 26th of July, 1870, and had only a very few auxiliaries established at the end of that month. But rapidly developing its organization, and working systematically, it raised and sent forward to the wounded in France and Germany during the months of August and September the products of cash contributions to the amount of 220,854 pounds sterling, together with large quantities of hospital supplies, which have been sent to its central depot in London. Nearly 100 expert surgeons have also received the badge of the Red Cross and gone from England to serve the wounded. Dr. John Simon, the Chief Medical Officer of the Privy Council, and a staff of English assistants, have charge of a model surgical hospital at Bingen on the Rhine. And, lastly, upon request of the National Society, in London, the British Secretary of State for War has ordered that a complete ambulance train, on "full service scale," with wagons and hospital outfits for 200 beds, shall be sent forward to some point most agreeable to the French or German army authorities.

Switzerland, the first in the field, as likewise first to urge the scheme of international relief, has officially sent the chief portion of the Swiss Army Medical Staff to France and Germany, and this fraternal act has been received by the belligerent governments with expressions of gratitude. Italy has been daily sending forward her generous stores for the wounded of both armies; and in every country the resident natives of France and Germany are stimulated alike by patriotic and humane sentiments to give liberally to the Relief Societies of their respective nations.* And Russia also, as we have already mentioned, has outfitted and sent forward, through the Russian Committee of Relief, one of the ablest companies of surgeons in Northern Europe.

By such acts as these, by munificent contributions in money and materials for relief of the wounded, by such personal chivalry and professional fraternity as these surgeons and aids of the National Relief Societies have exhibited, and by such burial and forgetfulness of national and sectarian prejudices and enmities, has not the spirit of the civilization and religion of our times become ennobled,

* The German-born population in America have contributed freely for the relief of the wounded, and with great magnanimity have not only sent all their gifts directly to the Prussian Central Relief Society, but have specifically directed that these contributions shall be impartially bestowed upon "*all* the wounded within the German lines." The Germans and French will continue to contribute munificently; but that will not diminish the obligation of our American-born citizens to give. This obligation is due to humanity.

and is not the brotherhood of man strengthened and exalted? Even if this were no necessary part of the fruit of such beneficence and sympathy, it certainly is an ample reward for these labors under the Geneva Treaty that untold agonies, terrors and dangers have been mitigated, and that thousands of human lives have been saved.

Savers of men!—comforters and preservers of homes!—such we know from personal observation are the faithful surgeons in armies and hospitals, and such are all the skilled persons who bring sanitary relief and help to the sick and wounded.

Throughout the long and terrible civil war in our beloved country, how thoughtfully and with what determination did the representatives of these branches of patriotic duty strive to secure the application of the people's aid in the saving of our brave soldiers from needless suffering and untimely death. And now shall we not pity and strive to alleviate the woes of the hundreds of thousands of German and French soldiers who are at this hour in the military hospitals, far from home, and longing to live for those they love? The fresh memories of our own terrible experience in these United States arouse our fraternal sympathies and urge the people of this country to contribute generously and without delay to the work of International aid and relief for those who fall upon the battle-fields or languish in hospitals. The war is not ended—when we write these words, apparently not nearly ended—nor will the wants of the wounded cease until many months after the war shall have ceased. In the latest dispatch to the American Branch of the International Association for Relief, the President of the Geneva Committee says: "We earnestly desire and need your gifts for the wounded; the wants are large, urgent, and recurring without ceasing. It is exceedingly desirable that America should awaken the *élan* of the friendly world, after having given to it so good and great an example in the war of the secession."

We lay these statements and this appeal before the American people, respectfully urging that there shall be prompt and generous contributions from them to the great work of Humanity in War—a work for all civilized nations, and which had its first great and inspiring example in these United States of America.

(Dec., 1888, 20,000)

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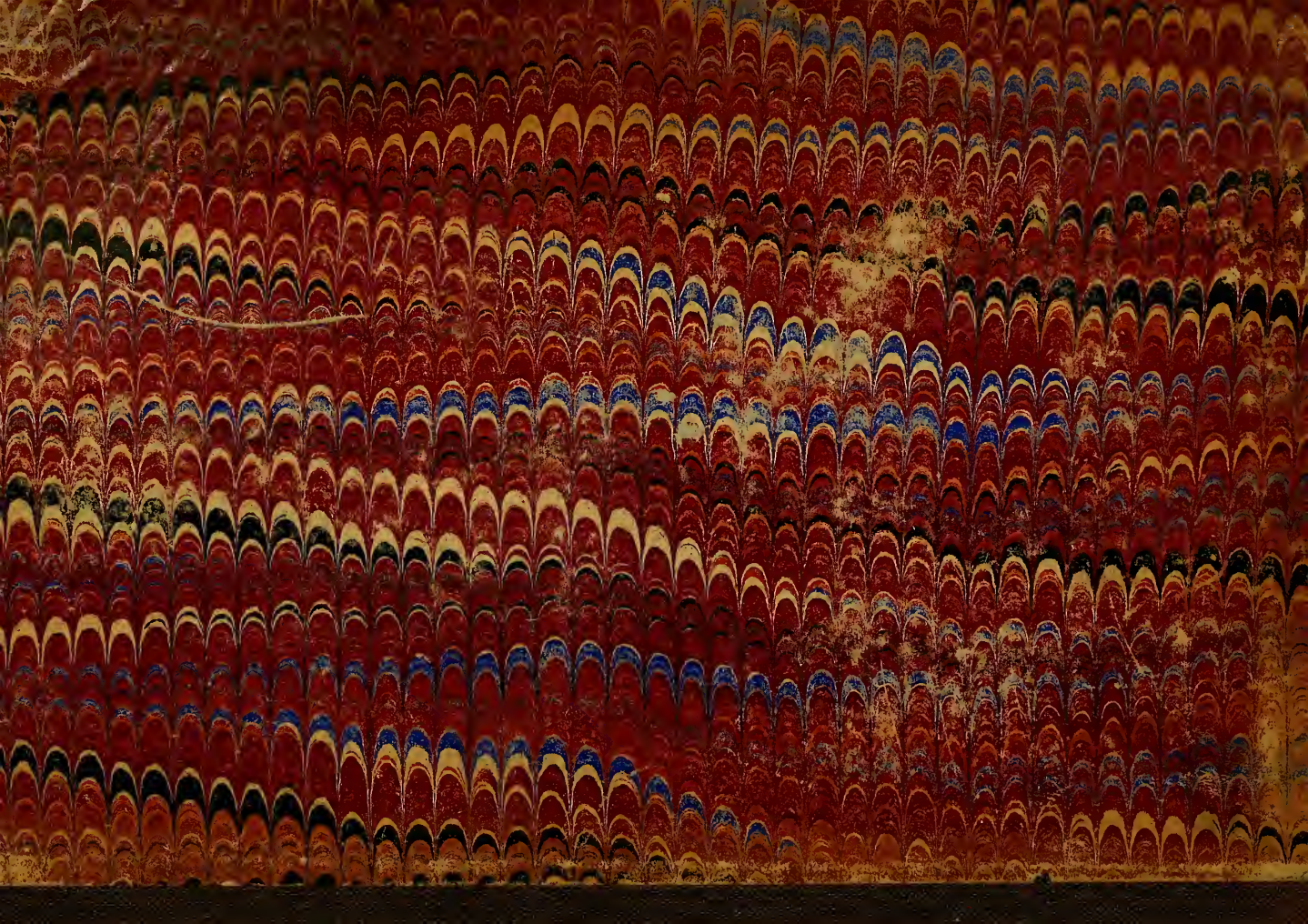
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